



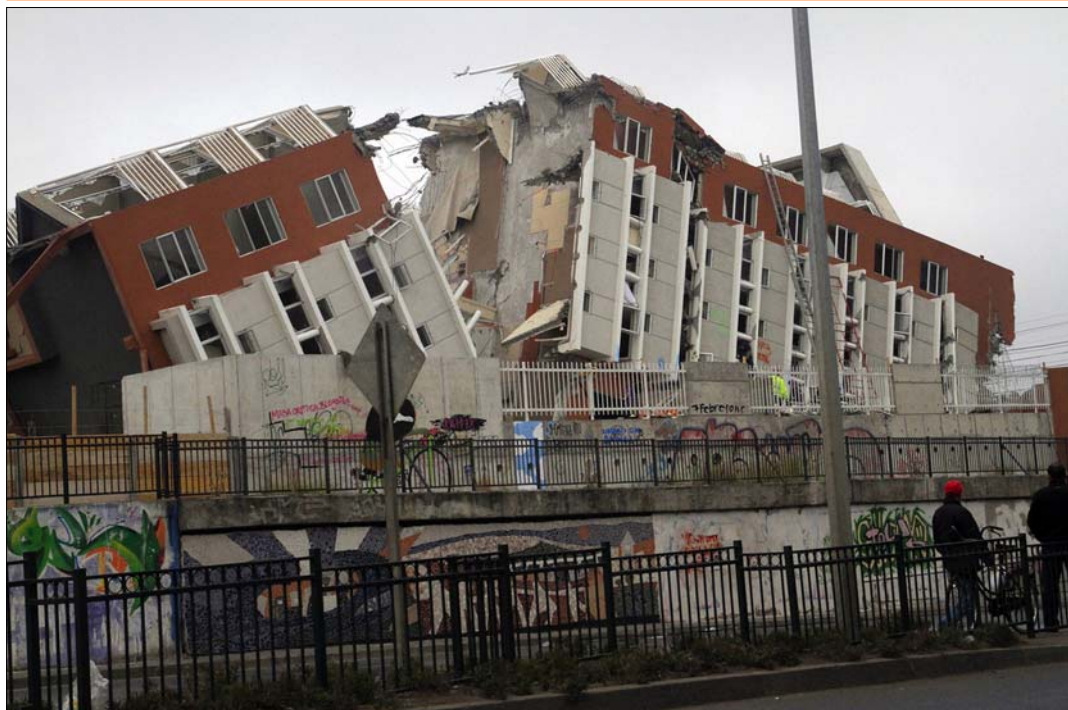
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Earthquake-damaged building in the city of Concepción, in Chile

## EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE

An 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck parts of Chile in the early hours of the morning on 27th February. Seismologists – scientists who study earthquakes – said it was one of the strongest earthquakes ever measured. The most powerful earthquake ever recorded was also in Chile. It had a magnitude of 9.5 and occurred in 1960.

The earthquake's epicentre was about 110 kilometres (70 miles) from Concepción, the second-largest city in Chile. Many old buildings were damaged or destroyed. Some more modern ones, including blocks of flats, were also affected. Bridges were knocked down and large cracks appeared in many roads. The earthquake also caused several tsunamis, or giant waves, along the coast. Many buildings in areas near the sea and close to the epicentre were either completely washed away or badly damaged.

Around 450 people are believed to have died in the earthquake. About 1.5 million have had their homes damaged or destroyed. People in Chile are used to earthquakes. Schools and companies hold frequent emergency drills or practises. Most Chileans know what to do when an earthquake strikes and which walls of their house are the safest to stand against. New buildings are all designed to be resistant to earthquakes.

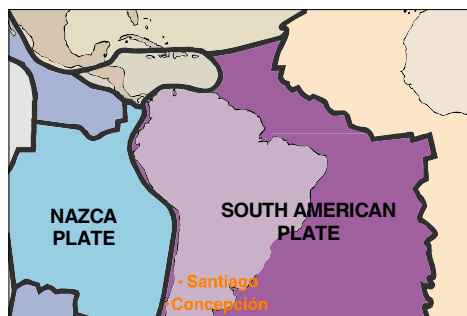
Michelle Bachelet, the president of Chile, decided to send troops to the city of Concepción to help the police keep order. A new president, Sebastian Piñera, officially took over from Ms Bachelet on 11th March. Mr Piñera won the presidential election that was held in January. One of Mr Piñera's election promises was to grow the country's economy. Many people think this will now be harder to do because of the damage caused by the earthquake.

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Several countries around the edge of the Pacific Ocean issued tsunami warnings. These included Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Tsunamis can travel very long distances. A tsunami caused, or **triggered**, by the 1960 earthquake in Chile killed 140 people in Japan, on the other side of the Pacific Ocean.



The surface of the Earth is made up of huge plates of rock called tectonic plates. These fit together like a giant jigsaw. The plates float on top of hot, liquid rock below and move very, very slowly. They may slide past, under, or over each other, or slide apart or move closer together. Sometimes, plate movement can cause violent tremors that we call an earthquake.

Chile is very close to where one tectonic plate (the Nazca) is sliding under another (the South American). Seismologists say the Nazca plate, which is moving eastwards, is about 96 kilometres (60 miles) thick. They calculate it slides under the South American plate at a speed of 7.5 centimetres (three inches) a year. One plate sliding under another in this way is known as subduction.

Sometimes plates get stuck and become locked together. Huge pressures build up. Eventually, the plates suddenly move. Seismologists say it was this type of movement that caused the Chile earthquake. The last similar earthquake to have occurred in this area was in 1835.

Scientists also think the earthquake may have shortened the day by a tiny fraction of a second. Every 24 hours the Earth spins once on its north-south axis, creating our days and nights. These depend on when our part of the planet is either facing away from the Sun or towards it. At the equator the Earth spins at about 1,660 kilometres (1,038 miles) per hour.

As well as its north-south axis, the Earth has another axis. This is known as its 'figure axis' – an imaginary line around which the mass of the Earth is balanced. The figure axis is around ten metres (33 feet) away from the north-south axis.

Earthquakes can affect the Earth's figure axis. This happens because of what is known as the 'ice skater effect'. For example, an ice skater will spin at one speed with her arms stretched out. If she pulls her arms in she will spin more quickly. This is because she has rearranged her mass so it is more closely centred around her axis. In the same way, anything that rearranges a large amount of Earth's mass, such as an earthquake, may alter its spinning speed.

Scientists have calculated the earthquake in Chile moved the Earth's figure axis by about eight centimetres (three inches). This means the planet is now spinning a little bit faster, so each day is a very tiny bit shorter.

This was not the only effect of the earthquake. Measurements taken from satellites above the Earth show that parts of South America have moved. The city of Concepción is now three metres (ten feet) further west than it was before. Santiago, the capital city, moved 28 centimetres (11 inches) in the same direction. ■

## ELECTION IN IRAQ

Elections to the parliament of Iraq were held on 7th March. The elections were arranged by an organisation called the Independent High Electoral Commission. This organisation is also responsible for counting all the votes and announcing the results. On 8th March the head of the Commission said 62% of people allowed to vote in Iraq had chosen to do so.

The last parliamentary elections in Iraq were held in 2005 – two years after the American-led invasion. The 2005 elections were arranged by the USA. Barack Obama, the American president, has announced that many of his country's troops in Iraq will be withdrawn towards the end of this year. The remainder, he says, will all leave by the end of 2011. So the government elected this time will be the first to govern a fully-independent Iraq.



*Nouri al-Maliki, prime minister of Iraq*

The people in Iraq are divided into three main groups – Kurds in the north, Shias in the south and Sunnis in the centre. Baghdad, the capital city, has a mixed population of Shias and Sunnis. Saddam Hussein, who was deposed by the American-led invasion, was a Sunni. So were most of his supporters. Under Saddam Hussein no fully democratic elections were held and he ruled the country as a dictator.

After the invasion, militant Shia and Sunni groups began fighting

each other. At the last election many Sunnis decided not to vote, as a protest. But this time the Electoral Commission said the numbers of people voting in Sunni areas was higher than in most other parts of the country.

However, there are militant groups in Iraq that oppose the USA and the country's elected government. These groups attacked some of the places where people went to vote. Over 30 people were killed in these attacks.

Iraq's parliament has 325 members. No one group in parliament has enough members to outvote all the others. Different parties have therefore grouped together into political groups called coalitions.

In Iraq the prime minister makes most of the important decisions. The country also has a president, elected by the 325 members of parliament. The president has less power than the prime minister. The current prime minister is Nouri al-Maliki. He is a Shia who leads the biggest coalition in parliament. The president, Jalal Talabani, is a Kurd.

The final results of the election will not be officially announced until 18th March. The successful members of parliament will then have to vote to select the country's president. Once appointed, the president will ask the largest coalition in the parliament to form the next government. The leader of this coalition will become Iraq's prime minister.

Experts say it could take weeks or even months for all the members to form their coalitions after the election results have been announced. Some expect Mr al-Maliki to continue to lead the biggest coalition. If he does, he will be re-elected as the country's prime minister. ■

## WHAT KILLED OFF THE DINOSAURS?

From the study of fossils it is known that the dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago. Most scientists believe their disappearance is linked either to a large asteroid hitting the Earth or to huge volcanic eruptions in an area in modern-day India.

Now an international group, or panel, of experts has announced it is sure a large asteroid impact killed off the dinosaurs. The panel made its decision after studying the scientific research done over the last 20 years about the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Dinosaur fossils are found in rocks only below a certain level of the Earth's surface. Above this level different types of fossils are found, but these are not dinosaurs. Geologists – scientists who study rocks – have worked out that the time at which the 'fossil record' changed was 65 million years ago.



*Artist's impression of Chicxulub impact*

The period of time during which the dinosaurs existed is called the Cretaceous. The period just after their extinction is known as the Tertiary. So the point at which the dinosaurs died out is called the Cretaceous-Tertiary mass extinction or K-T extinction event.

The international panel of experts says it's now certain a large asteroid hit the Earth at the same time as the K-T extinction event. This impact occurred at a place on the

## NewsCAST

**FROG REDISCOVERED** — A species of frog has been discovered in a stream in Australia – 30 years after it was believed to have become extinct. This is the first time the yellow-spotted bell frog has been seen since 1973. Experts say the stream in which the frog was found has only a small population of them. A zoo in the city of Sydney has collected some of their tadpoles to try to increase the population. The exact place where the frogs have been found is being kept secret. This is to stop anyone from disturbing the rare frogs or trying to catch them.

coast of modern-day Mexico. The crater formed by the asteroid is known as the Chicxulub impact crater. It has a diameter of 180 kilometres (110 miles).

The crater is named after the Mexican town now in its centre. It is difficult to see because the impact that caused it happened such a long time ago. But geologists have drilled below the seabed near Chicxulub and discovered rocks that are only formed by an impact of a large asteroid.

Scientists calculate the asteroid that hit the Earth 65 million years ago was as big as 15 kilometres (9.4 miles) across. It struck the planet, they say, 20 times faster than the speed of a bullet shot from a gun. The explosion was over one billion times the size of those caused by the atomic bombs dropped on Japan at the end of the Second World War in 1945.

The impact would have set off huge fires, earthquakes, landslides, and giant waves. Dust, ash and dirt would have been thrown high into the atmosphere. This would have



quickly spread around the globe and blocked out the Sun. The reduced sunlight, which may have lasted for several years, would have killed off many of the plants that needed lots of sunshine to survive.

The panel said a huge volcanic eruption did take place, in an area called the Deccan Traps in India, between 60 and 68 million years ago. This eruption may have lasted for as long as one million years. The volcanic ash thrown into the atmosphere would have caused the Earth to cool. But the panel believes these eruptions would not have been enough to kill off all the dinosaurs.

Although the dinosaurs died out many smaller types of mammals survived. This is why mammals have **dominated** the Earth since the K-T extinction event.

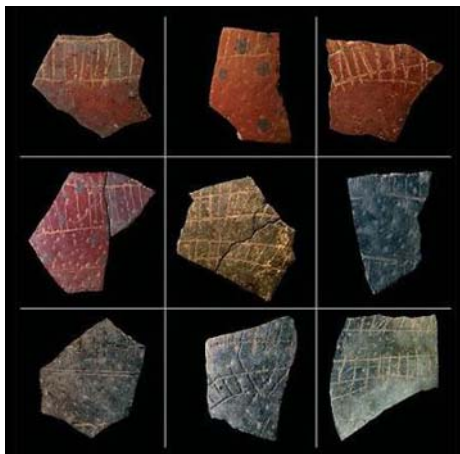
From studying the fossil record scientists believe there have been as many as five mass extinctions in the Earth's history. The other mass extinctions may also have been caused by large asteroid impacts. Scientists estimate asteroid impacts of this size happen about once every 100 million years. ■

## ANCIENT EGGSHELL PATTERNS

For several years archaeologists working in South Africa have been digging in a cave called the Diepkloof Rock Shelter. Recently, they displayed some pieces of ostrich eggshells found in the cave. The shells, which the archaeologists think are around 60,000 years old, have patterns scratched or 'written' on them.

Some pieces of shell discovered have a small hole in them. This makes the archaeologists think the eggs, when complete, were used to carry water. The shells of ostrich

eggs are thick and tough. They can therefore make good containers for liquids. Even today some people living in Africa who follow a traditional way of life use empty ostrich eggs as containers.



*Pieces of ancient ostrich eggshells*

The archaeologists have found 270 pieces of shell in total, thought to come from 25 different 'egg containers'. The shell pieces appear to have four different types of markings on them. These markings are parallel lines, bands, crosses and hash marks. The patterns are repeated, so they would have covered the whole eggshell. The shells are also coloured. The archaeologists believe the colours of the shells came from placing them close to a fire.

The archaeologists suggest the different patterns on the shells showed which individual owned which water container. If this is true, they say, the shells demonstrate some of the first signs of human 'individual expression'. They might also be the earliest **evidence** ever discovered of a type of 'written' communication among our ancient human ancestors.

The archaeologists say before the shells were discovered some of the earliest known 'writing' – or art – was ancient cave paintings. Many of these paintings have been found in Europe. They show animals and hunting

scenes. Experts say the ancient cave paintings in Europe date to between 35,000 and 10,000 years ago.

The newly-discovered 60,000-year-old ostrich eggshells are therefore much older than the European cave paintings. The shells date back to the period when modern humans are thought to have begun moving, or migrating, from Africa to other continents. The archaeologists believe the shells show humans were expressing individuality and making art much earlier than was previously thought. ■

## ELECTION IN TOGO

A presidential election was held in Togo on 4th March. The vote counting took two days. The final result showed that Faure Gnassingbé had been re-elected president for another five-year term.

Togo is a small country in West Africa. It is a former French colony that became an independent country in 1960. The population is around 6.7 million. Many of its people work on farms growing coffee, cocoa and cotton. Most of these crops are sold to other countries.



*Faure Gnassingbé, president of Togo*

Soon after Togo became independent Eyadéma Gnassingbé, who had spent several years in the French army, took over Togo by force. As president, he ran the country as a dictator. No opposing political

## NewsCAST

**INDOOR OCEAN LEAKS** — A giant aquarium, which contains sharks and stingrays and forms part of a famous shopping mall, in Dubai, sprang a leak. The huge tank contains 33,000 living things, including 400 sharks. A thick glass-walled tunnel at the bottom of the tank allows shoppers to 'walk through' the huge aquarium with the sharks and stingrays swimming around them. A person noticed water on the floor. It was coming from a crack in one of the large thick glass viewing panels. Everyone was immediately evacuated from the area. Officials say six divers and some workmen managed to successfully repair the leak.



parties were allowed. He did agree to elections in the 1990s. But many of his opponents claimed the elections were not really democratic, and, as a protest, refused to take part in them. Eyadéma Gnassingbé was Africa's longest-serving leader when he died in 2005. Soon after this, the head of Togo's army declared that the president's son, Faure Gnassingbé, would take his place.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is an organisation of 15 West African countries, including Togo. It is a regional group that promotes the interests of its members. ECOWAS was unhappy that Faure Gnassingbé had been made president without an election being held. It insisted there should be a vote for a new president. Faure Gnassingbé agreed and an election was held two months later.

During the election in 2005 there were many violent acts. Some

estimate that as many as 500 people were killed. Faure Gnassingbé was declared the winner and was appointed president for a five-year period. Some people were unhappy with the result. They claimed votes had been miscounted and the election had been unfair.

Many were worried there would be more violence during the election on 4th March. Members of the police and army voted three days early, so they could be on duty on the day of the election.

President Gnassingbé's main rival was Jean-Pierre Fabre. He leads a political group called Union of Forces for Change (UFC). Election officials declared Mr Gnassingbé won 61% of the votes and Mr Fabre 34%. The remainder of the votes went to a third candidate.

Mr Fabre and his followers insisted the final result couldn't be trusted. They claimed President Gnassingbé's supporters had altered the final vote count. Protests were held by Mr Fabre's supporters in Lomé, the capital city of Togo.

Over 500 observers from the European Union (EU), ECOWAS, and the African Union (AU) were in Togo to check the election was free and fair. They said there was very little violence during the election, and that the final result was correct. ■

## SEAWORLD TRAINER KILLED

On 24th February, a trainer at an aquarium theme park in the USA was killed. Dawn Brancheau worked at SeaWorld, in Florida. She died after being pulled into a large water tank by one of the park's killer whales. Ms Brancheau was 40 years old and had worked at SeaWorld for 16 years.

Killer whales, which are black-and-white, are the largest members of the dolphin family. They are also called orcas. In the wild they live in large groups. Orcas feed mostly on fish, and some types hunt larger marine mammals such as seals. Animal experts say wild orcas are not usually a threat to humans.



Orcas

Orcas are quite commonly held in captivity at aquariums and theme parks such as SeaWorld. They often take part in shows for visitors to the parks. The whales are trained to perform tricks to entertain the audience. Orcas are known to be very intelligent and to have sophisticated ways of communicating with each other.

People who saw what happened said Ms Brancheau was standing by the whale tank after a show. One whale grabbed Ms Brancheau's ponytail and pulled her into the water. The killer whale held her hair in its mouth and swam away from other trainers who tried to catch it in a net.

Reports say the same orca, known as Tilikum or Telly, had also accidentally killed a trainer who fell into his tank at an aquarium in Canada. And in 1999 a man was found floating in the whale's tank in SeaWorld. He had stayed behind after the park had closed for the day and got into the tank. It is not known if the man drowned or was killed by the whale. Ms Brancheau was the first trainer at SeaWorld to be killed in this type of accident.

Many animal rights groups say killer whales should not be kept in aquarium parks. They say the incident at SeaWorld shows that keeping large animals captive affects their behaviour and causes them to do things they would not normally do.

However, marine park officials say most aquarium whales are born in captivity. This, they argue, means the whales would not survive if they were to be released back into the sea. Yet some marine biologists say captive whales such as Tilikum could be released into large sea pens. There they could learn how to survive before being released into the wild.

After the accident at SeaWorld the killer whale shows were stopped for three days. Ms Brancheau's funeral was held on 1st March. ■

## MUDSLIDES IN UGANDA

On 1st March very heavy rains in Uganda caused mudslides around Mount Elgon in the east of the country. Many people are missing and local officials think around 350 may have died in the disaster.



*People walk across mudslide on Mount Elgon*

Mount Elgon is an extinct volcano close to the border between Uganda and Kenya. This part of Africa normally has annual wet and dry seasons. But this year there has been much more rain than usual. Recently, there has been serious

flooding in Kenya. Some scientists have suggested climate change is affecting the wet and dry seasons in this part of Africa.

The landslides on the eastern side of Mount Elgon destroyed the houses, shops and schools in three villages. Rescue workers and members of the army took a long time to reach the remote area where the mudslides happened. They did not have enough mechanical digging equipment. And the equipment that was brought to the area was difficult to use because of the steep slopes of the mountainside.

After the mudslides happened the rain kept falling. Local people used hand-held tools to help the rescue workers dig. Many were worried more mudslides could be caused by the continuing rain. Rescuers have found about 90 bodies. Over 250 others have been reported missing, including 60 school children.

Yoweri Museveni is the president of Uganda. He visited the area in a helicopter on 3rd March. He said local farmers may have helped to cause the mudslides, which were far worse than they usually are. He said farmers have cut down much of the thick vegetation, trees, and bushes, on the sides of Mount Elgon to grow vegetables and bananas. The roots of natural vegetation help to hold the soil together. If they are removed there is a much greater risk of landslides when there is a lot of rain.

Another month of heavy rain is expected. So on 4th March officials decided 4,000 people should be evacuated from the mountainside. These people's homes are thought to be in the greatest danger of further landslides. The officials admitted that around 300,000 more people might have to be evacuated from the

area. However, many do not want to leave, as their families have lived in this part of Uganda for many years. ■

## AIRBURST OVER ANTARCTICA?

Scientists attending a conference in the USA say they have found evidence that an airburst happened over Antarctica hundreds of thousands of years ago.



*Satellite picture of Antarctica*

Scientists use the word 'airburst' to describe what happens when a large meteoroid, or piece of space rock, enters the Earth's atmosphere and explodes before reaching the ground. Meteoroids can enter the atmosphere at speeds as fast as 50 times the speed of sound. They become very hot due to the friction of the air. This is what may cause them to explode. When this happens, the heat and the force of the explosion can continue speeding towards the Earth's surface.

Most scientists think there was an airburst over a remote part of Russia in 1908. This has become known as the Tunguska event. However, there is disagreement over whether it was a meteoroid or a comet – made up of ice and dust – that exploded above the ground.



Years after the explosion, scientists went to the Tunguska area to investigate. They expected to discover a large hole, or crater, and bits of the space rock that hit the ground. To their surprise all they found was millions of 'knocked down' or flattened trees over a 50 kilometre (31 mile) wide area. Later, an aeroplane flew over Tunguska. The pilot confirmed there was no crater, and said the pattern of fallen trees looked like the shape of a huge butterfly.

At the time few people lived in Tunguska and it's believed no-one died in the explosion. However, if the explosion had happened at a slightly later time, a different part of the Earth's surface would have been beneath it. Scientists have worked out that if the meteoroid or comet had arrived five hours after it did, it would have exploded above the Russian city of St Petersburg.

The scientists working in Antarctica drilled long pipes into the thick ice. When these pipes are pulled back up, they contain long tube-shaped pieces of ice from deep under the surface. These are known as ice cores.

Scientists can work out many things from studying ice cores. For example, air bubbles trapped in ice cores can show how much carbon dioxide was in the atmosphere at different times throughout history. The deeper the ice in the cores the older it is.

The scientists say they found tiny bits of the same [extraterrestrial](#) material, or space dust, in ice cores drilled over a wide area of Antarctica.

The scientists say the space dust in the ice cores dates to 481,000 years ago. They found the same space dust in ice cores drilled nearly 3,000 kilometres (1,875 miles) apart. As the dust was found at the

same level in each core, it must have landed across a wide area of ice at the same time. The scientists say only an airburst could have spread the dust over such a large area. They calculate the space rock that exploded above Antarctica may have weighed as much as 100,000 tonnes.

Scientists say airbursts probably only happen once every 500 to 1,000 years. ■

## SUPERCCELL STORM

On 6th March the city of Melbourne, the second-largest in Australia, was hit by what's known as a supercell storm. During the storm hailstones the size of lemons fell on large areas of the city and many streets became flooded.

A supercell is a very large and powerful thunderstorm. Supercells are not very common. They can happen anywhere in the world but most occur in the central part of the USA and Australia. The huge storms can be up to 32 kilometres (20 miles) wide. They bring large hailstones, heavy rain and very strong winds.



Supercell storm

The supercell storm over Melbourne lasted for several hours. The large hailstorms caused a lot of damage. They broke through parts of the roof of the city's newly-designed railway station. The station has an unusually-shaped roof. Some people

think its modern design was the reason why the roof was so badly damaged. The station was forced to close after water poured through the holes made by the hailstones.

Other roofs in the city were also damaged. Many cars were covered in dents caused by the large hailstones. Some people had bruises from being hit by them but no-one was seriously injured.

Although it is summer in Australia, people in Melbourne said the layer of hailstones made it look as if the whole city was covered in snow.

Over 4,000 people telephoned the emergency services for help. Many more had the electricity supply to their houses cut off. Streets in the city centre were flooded, a sports stadium was damaged, and a hospital and large gallery were affected by leaking roofs. Officials think that the cost of repairing all the damage will be very high.

Many parts of Australia, including the area around Melbourne, have been suffering from a long period of drought, or lack of rainfall. People working for the organisation that supplies water to the city's houses, offices and shops said the storm had helped to add much-needed water to [reservoirs](#) outside the city.

Weather experts in Australia described the supercell as 'a beast of a storm'. They estimated that a storm of this power and size would hit the area around Melbourne only once every hundred years. ■

## DEMOCRACY IN COLOMBIA

Álvaro Uribe has been the president of Colombia since 2002. On 26th February judges at the most senior court in the country voted he should not be allowed to stand

for a third four-year term as president. Of nine judges, only two voted that he should be allowed to do so, while seven said he should not. President Uribe said he accepted the judges' decision.

President Uribe is very popular in Colombia. He was first elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2004. Ten years ago the country had many problems. When he became president Mr Uribe said he was determined to defeat a militant group called the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – also known as FARC. He also declared he would end **corruption**, or dishonesty, in government organisations.



Álvaro Uribe, president of Colombia

FARC has been trying to take over Colombia by force for the last 40 years. It operates from secret military bases in the jungle. FARC is also involved with selling cocaine, an illegal drug. The drug is made from the coca plant that grows in the forests. Much of the cocaine made in this way is then smuggled into the USA. FARC uses the money it makes from these illegal drugs to buy weapons. FARC has also kidnapped family members of wealthy people and demanded that their relatives pay ransoms for their safe return.

In 2002 FARC was in control of large areas of the country. Yet during Mr Uribe's term as president the militant group has suffered many defeats. Many of its leaders have

been killed or captured and hundreds of its supporters imprisoned. Most people agree there is much less danger from FARC than there was before President Uribe was elected.

In his fight against FARC President Uribe has been helped by the USA. America has provided arms and technology to help track down the FARC military bases and its leaders. The USA says it is willing to do this because it too wants to stop the illegal cocaine drug trade.

Unlike other leaders in South America President Uribe has been willing to work with the USA. Many others, including President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, President Evo Morales of Bolivia and President Rafael Correa of Ecuador are anti-American. They all claim the USA is deliberately trying to interfere in South American politics.

Colombia's constitution – the rules by which the country is governed – says a president can serve only two four-year terms in a row. The next presidential election will take place at the end of May.

President Uribe is now coming to the end of his second term. Recently, he hinted he might like to stand for a third term. For this to happen, Colombia's constitution would need to be changed. Any change in the constitution must have the approval of the people. So, if President Uribe were to stand again, Colombia would have to hold a referendum – a vote in which all adults can take part – to approve it.

Many of Colombia's elected members of Congress, or parliament, support President Uribe. They voted to hold a referendum to allow the president to stand again. Many predicted most people would vote 'yes' in a referendum and Mr Uribe would easily win another four-year

term as president. Yet the decision on holding the referendum had to be authorised by Colombia's most senior court, and the judges decided against it.

Some people believe the judges' decision has been a 'victory' for democracy in Colombia. They say a country's democracy and laws should be 'stronger' than any one man. In a successful democracy, they add, there should be several people who are able to lead the country.

The decision taken by the judges in Colombia is very different from what has happened in some other South American countries. For example, the presidents of Venezuela and Bolivia have recently managed to get their constitutions changed so they can stay in power for longer periods. ■

## SHIPS FREED FROM BALTIC SEA

Icebreakers from Sweden and Finland have had to free several ships, including passenger ferries, in the Baltic Sea. Icebreakers are ships that are specially designed to be able to break through thick sea ice.



Ferry trapped by sea ice in the Baltic Sea

Ferries and cargo ships had become stuck in the area around the Stockholm archipelago. This is a group of thousands of small islands close to Stockholm, the capital of



Sweden. Many of the 50 ships that became stuck in the ice were travelling between Sweden and Finland.

An icebreaker freed a passenger ferry called the *Amorella* on 5th March. The ferry was carrying around 1,000 passengers and crew. It became caught up in the ice after leaving Stockholm the previous day. The sea ice pushed the ferry towards another ship that was also stuck. The two ships collided but neither was badly damaged.

Icebreakers were already working to free cargo ships that had been stuck for days in the north of the Baltic Sea. Some icebreakers were then **diverted** to free trapped ferries and ships in the area around the Stockholm archipelago.

The day after the *Amorella* was freed the icebreakers rescued a car ferry and a large cargo ship with over 50 people on board. Other ships and ferries eventually managed to get out of the ice without the help of the icebreakers.

Experts say it is unusual for there to be so much thick sea ice in this part of the Baltic Sea. The thicker ice is normally further north at this time of year. Any ice around the Stockholm archipelago is usually thin enough for passenger ferries to sail through it. Yet this winter has been very cold in Sweden. Much of the sea ice had been blown towards the islands by strong winds. Once it neared the islands and coastline it began to pile up.

Officials said they had made arrangements for helicopters and military hovercraft to evacuate passengers if the ferries could not be freed from the ice. But this was not necessary.

The Swedish **maritime** authorities were angry with some of the ferry companies. They said they had given a warning about the ice

## NewsCAST

**LAZY DOG WALKER** — A man in the UK has been banned from driving after he was caught driving very slowly. When he was stopped the man was found to be walking his dog. He had his car window open and was holding the end of his dog's lead as the dog walked beside the car. The man was made to pay a fine of just over £100 (US\$150). He had broken other driving rules in the past. These past offences are 'added on' to his dog walking one. So the man will not be allowed to drive for six months.

problem the day before the ships became stuck. They said the ships should have delayed their departure times or travelled by a different route to avoid the sea ice. ■

## CHINA'S NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OPENS

The meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC) began in Beijing, the capital of China, on 4th March. This meeting, which takes place every year, is held to pass new laws and discuss those that have been passed before. It usually lasts for just over two weeks. This year's meeting will finish on 14th March.

The NPC is held in a large building called the Great Hall of the People, which is also known as China's parliament building. Around 3,000 **delegates** attend the Congress. Different regions of China and the armed forces select the delegates. They are appointed to the Congress for a five-year period.

The NPC is not like elected parliaments in many other countries. The Communist Party governs China

and no other political parties are allowed. The delegates attending the NPC are appointed, or chosen, rather than elected democratically. Most are members of the Communist Party. This means there is usually little disagreement among them.

The Chinese communist leaders tend to make all the new laws. These are then presented to the NPC to be discussed. Yet it is rare for the NPC to alter or change any of these laws and the delegates immediately pass most of them.

Chinese senior leaders, such as President Hu Jin-tao and Premier (or prime minister) Wen Jia-bao, make speeches during the NPC. Premier Wen spoke on 5th March. He talked about China's economy, which continues to grow very quickly. He said it is important for Chinese companies to produce higher quality items and use more technology than they currently do.



National People's Congress

During his speech Premier Wen talked about fairness. He said he wants to narrow the gap between poorer people in the countryside and richer people who live in the cities.

Premier Wen also announced a plan to change the system that registers where people live. Many think the system is unfair. In China, a lot of people from the countryside move to the cities to find better-paid jobs. These people are known as migrant workers. Now around 43% of Chinese people live in cities.

The current registration system means migrant workers living in cities are not allowed to access the same services available to those who are registered in the same cities. These services include housing, medical treatment, and children's schooling.

Other Communist Party officials speaking at the NPC said they planned to solve other problems. These include the rising cost of houses, especially in Beijing and Shanghai, China's two largest cities.

As the NPC is held only once a year there is great interest in the meeting. This year over 3,000 news reporters, around 800 of them from foreign countries, applied to the authorities to report on the Congress. ■

## HEART RISK IN OBESE CHILDREN

Scientists in America have reported that obese children as young as three years old can show signs they will suffer from heart disease in later life. Around 16,000 children and young adults, aged between one and 17 years old, took part in the scientists' study.

The scientists were looking at a protein found in our blood. It is called C-reactive protein (CRP). The level of CRP in our blood rises if we have an infection or [inflammation](#) in a part of our body.

People who suffer from heart disease often have inflammation in the walls of their arteries. Arteries are tubes that carry blood around the body. Many doctors say this means a higher-than-normal level of CRP in the blood can be a clue to whether someone is likely to have heart disease. This is because the CRP shows that an inflammation is somewhere in his or her body. High levels of

CRP in adults have been linked to a high risk of having heart problems such as a heart attack.

The scientists carried out their study at a university in the USA. About 70% of the children and young adults they studied were a healthy weight for their age. The others were overweight or obese and 3.5% of the children were very obese.

Obesity is a medical condition. Obese people have more body fat than their bodies need – an amount that can be dangerous to their health and even shorten their lives.

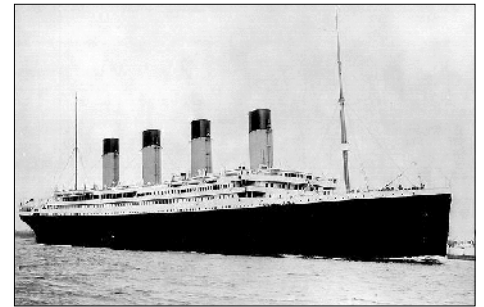
Doctors say today many more children are obese than in the past. They say there could be several reasons for this. For example, some people think children do not play as actively outdoors as they did years ago. Others say the types of foods people eat have changed. In many countries fatty and sugary foods are cheap and easy to get. Eating a lot of these types of food can lead to obesity. Many doctors also say obesity can be partly caused by our genes.

The doctors discovered that in the youngest age group, those children who were obese had almost twice as high a level of CRP in their blood as the children of a healthy weight. In the oldest age group, 15 to 17 years, some healthy-weight teenagers had increased CRP. But the percentage of obese teenagers with increased CRP was four times as high.

Many heart experts have said the study doesn't really give enough information. They say it does not prove that increased CRP in young children means they are more likely to have heart problems when they are adults. Yet, the experts say, it does show obese children have a high CRP level at a much younger age than scientists previously thought. ■

## HOW HUMANS BEHAVE IN A CRISIS

Scientists in Australia have made a study of two historic shipwrecks. They claim information from the lists of people who survived the disasters explains different types of human behaviour – especially when people are faced with a life-threatening situation.



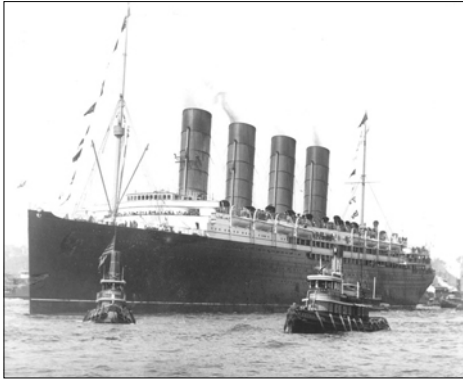
*Titanic*

The two shipwreck disasters were those of the *Titanic* and the *Lusitania*. Both happened at about the same time. The *Titanic* was the world's biggest passenger ship. It sank in 1912, on its first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, after hitting an iceberg. The *Lusitania* sank three years later in 1915. The First World War had started the year before and the *Lusitania* was sunk off the coast of Ireland by a German submarine. Both ships had around 2,000 people and crew members on board.

The scientists say they chose these two disasters because a lot of information is known about what happened, and around the same number of people from each ship survived. The main difference between the two shipwrecks, say the scientists, was the speed at which the ships sank. After it hit the iceberg the *Titanic* took more than two hours to sink. The *Lusitania* sank within 18 minutes of being hit by one of the submarine's [torpedoes](#).

There were not enough lifeboats for everyone on the *Titanic*,

so only 690 people survived. Most were women, children, or adults who were looking after a child. Adult men, and people without children, were less likely to be among the survivors. Yet on the *Lusitania* those who survived the sinking were mainly fit, strong people – male or female – between the ages of 16 and 35. Many were travelling on their own without other family members.



*Lusitania*

Around 100 years ago, at the time of the two shipwrecks, men and women were thought of quite differently in society from the way they are today. Women were not thought to be equal to men. They did not have all the rights and freedoms men had. For example, few women had the chance to study at university. In the UK, women were not allowed to vote until 1918 and in the USA not until 1920. Women were often dependent on men. This was because many jobs were not open to women, and it was quite unusual for them to work outside the home.

On the *Titanic* the crew and male passengers encouraged women and children to be first into the lifeboats. Women traditionally looked after children, and men were considered to be stronger and more likely to survive on their own. The researchers call this a ‘social norm’ of the time, as looking after the women and children first is what society would have expected.

However, on the *Lusitania*, people were faced with a more immediate life-threatening problem. The scientists say in this case, everyone simply fought for his or her own life. The social norms were overtaken by a more animal-style behaviour where the strongest or fittest survived. There was not a big difference between the numbers of men and women who survived – it was simply those who were young and fit enough to get into the lifeboats first.

The researchers say the speed of each shipwreck is the main reason for the difference. With more time, the crew and passengers on the *Titanic* could think and act in a way governed by how society expected them to behave. Yet when faced with immediate disaster, say the scientists, the need to save oneself becomes more important to humans, and social norms are forgotten. ■

## HISTORY BOOK RECALLED

A book publisher has decided to cancel the printing of a history book, and to take back copies that have already been sold. The book is about the dropping of two atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Japan, in 1945, by the USA. The publisher says it cannot now be sure if some of the facts in the book are true.

The Second World War (1939-1945) came to an end after the USA dropped the two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities. The two bombs are thought to have killed around 210,000 people, with many others dying afterwards from illnesses linked to radiation from the weapons. It was the first and only time

atomic weapons have been used in a war. Japan decided to surrender soon after the second bomb was dropped.

The book about these events is called *The Last Train From Hiroshima*. Its author is Charles Pellegrino. The book was published in January.

On 22nd February, Mr Pellegrino admitted that one of the people he interviewed for the book had not told him the truth about being involved in the bombings. The pilot of the plane that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima nicknamed his plane the ‘Enola Gay’, as this was his mother’s name. Mr Pellegrino said the man he spoke with claimed he had been on a plane that escorted the Enola Gay as it flew to Japan.

However, other members of the crew who flew in the plane said he had not been on it. The family of James Corliss – whom the man claimed to have replaced on the aircraft – gave proof that it was Mr Corliss who had really been on the plane.

The publishing company then said it would print a revised, or

## NEWSCAST

**STRONG THIEF** — Police in Russia have arrested two thieves. Their robbery was unusual. The men stole a cash machine by pulling it out of a wall and carrying it away. A person working at the shop from which the cash machine had been stolen called the police. The two thieves were caught driving away with the cash machine in the back of their car. The police said one claimed to be a wrestler. They said he must have been strong to be able to pull the machine, which weighs around 90 kilograms (200 pounds), out of the wall and carry it to the car.



changed, edition of the book. The new edition would include a separate note written by the author about the confusion. It would also correct the facts.



*The Enola Gay aircraft on display at a museum, in the USA*

But then a news agency asked some questions about the stories of two other people that were included in the book. The news agency said historians who had studied the history of the dropping of the atomic bombs could find no evidence that either person had existed.

The publishing company said Mr Pellegrino had not been able to give a satisfactory answer to the news agency's suspicions. It therefore decided to recall, or take back, all the copies of the book that have already been sold. The publisher says everyone who bought the book will be able to get his or her money back. ■

## SIBERIAN TIGER CUB DIES

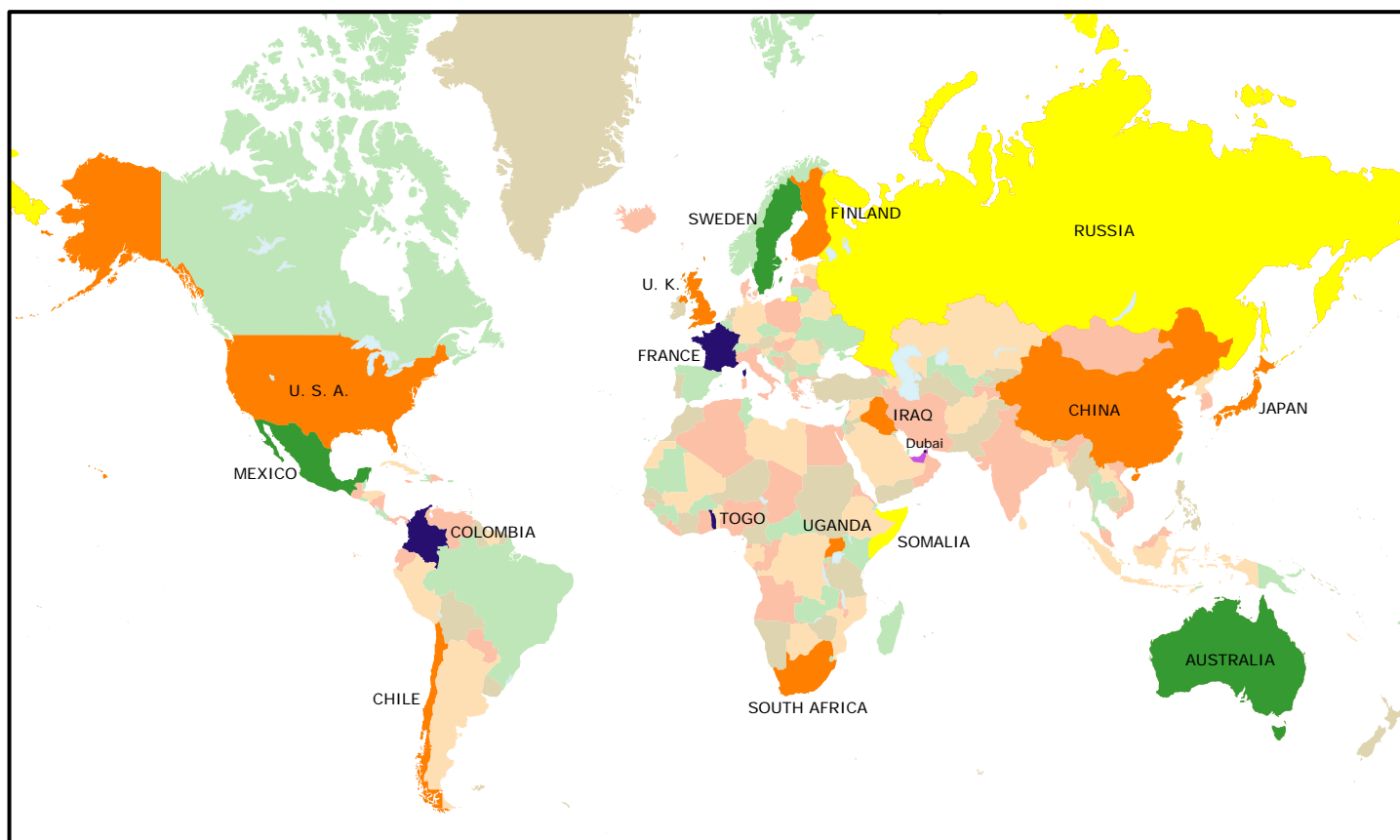
A rare Siberian tiger cub found in China has died of malnutrition – or not getting enough food. The wild tiger cub was discovered in a forestry worker's garden on 26th February.

Siberian tigers are an endangered species. Conservationists believe there are now only about 300 Siberian tigers living in the wild. Most are in the far eastern part of Russia. A number are known to be in China.

Experts say there could be as few as 20 tigers living in China.

Chinese officials said the forestry worker's dog had started barking at something outside his house. The man went to investigate and discovered the female tiger cub trapped in a pile of wood in his garden. He contacted some of the people he worked for. They fed the tiger chickens and beef throughout the night. Animal experts arrived the next day to rescue the animal. They used a tranquiliser to put the tiger cub to sleep so they could free it from the woodpile.

The cub was thought to have been between nine months and one year old. The animal experts said she was very weak and ill. She weighed much less than a tiger cub of that age should have done. The forestry workers said they suspected the cub had become separated from her



mother because of the heavy snow. The tiger cub died within a few days of being rescued.

China and other countries that have wild Siberian tiger populations are trying to find ways to increase their numbers. Many are bred in captivity, in zoos and wildlife parks around the world.



*Siberian tiger*

Chinese officials said the discovery of the tiger cub was important even though she had died. This is because the discovery proves Siberian tigers are breeding in the wild and may mean the wild tiger population is increasing.

Many people in China thought it was a good sign when they heard the news that a rare Siberian tiger had been found. This is because 2010 is the Year of the Tiger, according to the Chinese Lunar calendar. The arrival of the Year of the Tiger was celebrated in China, and in many other countries where Chinese people live, on 14th February. ■

## ATLANTIC RUBBISH DUMP

For a long time, marine scientists have known about a large area of plastic rubbish floating in the Pacific Ocean. It has been nicknamed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The area of floating rubbish is spread over hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of the sea. Now

scientists say a similar 'Garbage Patch' has been developing in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Earth's oceans contain currents. These are natural steady flows of water that move in different directions. Currents can act together and flow in a circular path around a part of the ocean. Areas of ocean surrounded by these circular currents are known as gyres.

The area of plastic rubbish in the Atlantic Ocean has accumulated in a gyre formed by a system of four currents. This area is commonly known as the Sargasso Sea. The name comes from a type of seaweed of the same name. Like the plastic rubbish, the seaweed is gathered into the Sargasso Sea by the ocean currents that flow around it.

The scientists say some of the rubbish is natural marine debris such as driftwood. But most of it comes from plastic waste from products humans use and throw away. By the time the plastic reaches the garbage patch, though, it doesn't look like household items. Instead, it has broken down into small pieces. Over time plastic will gradually break down into smaller and smaller bits. This is called phytodegrading.

These tiny floating pieces of plastic cause two big problems. One is that fish and birds, especially those that feed at the surface of the ocean, can easily swallow them. The second problem is that the pieces of plastic attract toxic chemicals that have been dumped or washed into the ocean. The floating plastic acts in a similar way to a sponge – it attracts and soaks up these chemicals. So the seawater around the plastic becomes toxic, and the small plastic pieces poisonous to the birds and fish that eat them.

The Sea Education Association (SEA) is based in the USA. Students at this organisation have worked for over 20 years to collect information on rubbish dumped in the Atlantic Ocean. The students sailed ships through different parts of the ocean, dragging nets along the surface of the sea. The students counted the pieces of plastic caught in their nets in different areas. Their study shows approximately how much plastic is in each square kilometre of the Atlantic garbage patch. Yet the SEA says its research does not include the amount of plastic suspended under the surface of the ocean.



*Plastic rubbish washed up on a beach*

Scientists are now working on ways to make a type of plastic that will rot away in a similar way to other **biodegradable** items. If they can do this it may help to stop the ocean garbage patches getting even bigger. ■

## YOUNGEST AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER?

An investigation has begun at an airport in the USA. The investigators want to find out how a young boy was allowed to give aircraft pilots their take-off instructions by radio.

JFK is one of the airports in New York City. JFK stands for John F Kennedy, after whom the airport

was named. He was the president of the USA between 1961 and 1963.

The people who instruct aircraft pilots when to land and take off at airports are called air traffic controllers. These people, who work in control towers, use large computer screens to show them where in the air different aircraft are. The controllers can also see where there are spaces on runways for planes to take off or land.



Control tower at JFK airport

The air traffic controllers' job is to tell pilots which runways they can use and at what times they can land or take-off. It is therefore very important for the controllers to give the pilots the correct information. This means planes stay at a safe distance from each other at all times.

In February authorities at JFK airport heard some radio broadcasts that included a child's voice. The child could be heard giving some take-off instructions to a pilot. A man's voice was also heard making a joke about children being out of school. Some schools in New York were closed around this time for a half-term break.

The pilots who got their instructions from the 'child controller' did not seem to mind what was happening. One pilot was heard saying the child had done an 'awesome job'.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is an organisation in the USA. One of its jobs is to make sure passenger flights are operated safely.

It sets rules and regulations about how aircraft flights can be run. The FAA said it was against its rules for a child to be allowed to give take-off instructions to planes. It said it would investigate what had happened.

Sometimes air traffic controllers are allowed to invite family members to visit the control tower. The FAA declared that all these visits would be stopped while it carried out its investigation. On 4th March it was confirmed that one controller had allowed his children to pass on instructions to some pilots after he told them what to say. The FAA announced that they had **suspended** this controller and his boss from their jobs.

Some people think the FAA is being too strict. They say there was no danger as the father was in control of his children and had told them exactly what to say. Some pilots are reported to have broadcast messages of support for the controllers who have been suspended. But other people disagree. They say the control tower is not a place for games and insist even supervised children should not give instructions that could affect other people's safety. ■

## AWARDS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

On 4th March, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) handed out the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science to five scientists. Each prize-winning scientist came from a different part of the world. The winners, known as laureates, were nominated by scientists and selected by a **jury**.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO prizes are awarded every year. Each year the awards have a different theme.

This year it was Life Sciences. These include things such as medicine, ecology and biology – any science that involves the study of living things.

Just over ten years ago, a large meeting, or conference, of scientists was held in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Those attending decided something must be done to encourage more women to take up careers in science and technology. In many countries, girls do not have the same access as boys to education in science subjects. The scientists all agreed this must change if more women are to have the opportunity of a scientific career.



L'Oréal is a famous cosmetics company that sponsors the UNESCO awards. UNESCO and L'Oréal say the prizes are part of what they call the '10 Years of Action' that began at the meeting in Budapest. The awards were the first international prizes given to recognise women's contribution to scientific excellence. The winners agree it is very important for them to act as role models for young women who want to have a career in science.

Each year one laureate is selected from each of five geographic areas: Europe, North America, Africa and the Arab States, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America.

This year all of the winners were professors at scientific institutes or universities. The European laureate, Anne Dejean-Assémat, researches



the ways in which cancers begin in people's bodies. The jury said the work of Rashika El Ridi, from Egypt, led to a vaccine being developed against a tropical disease that affects over 200 million people. And Alejandra Bravo, from Mexico, won an award for her research into bacteria that can be used as an environmentally-friendly insecticide.

Each laureate received US\$100,000 (£67,000) to recognise her important scientific research and development work. Previous winners of the L'Oréal-UNESCO award have gone on to win Nobel Prizes for different science subjects, including Chemistry and Medicine.

Irina Bokova is the Director-General of UNESCO. She is a politician from Bulgaria. Ms Bokova attended the Women in Science awards ceremony, which was held in Paris, the capital of France. This is where both L'Oréal and UNESCO have their headquarters. ■

## OPERATION ATLANTA

On 8th March the French navy announced one of its ships had captured over 30 suspected pirates in the Gulf of Aden, off the coast of Somalia.

Many well-armed groups of pirates are now operating in the seas around Somalia. The country has had no effective government since 1991. It is now thought to be one of the most lawless countries in the world. This means the pirate gangs can operate without fear of arrest.

For over four years Somali pirates have been attacking and capturing ships in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. Many ships sailing between Europe and the Middle East and Asia use these waters,

especially those that travel through the Suez Canal.

The pirates often operate from what are called 'mother ships'. These larger ships carry small fast speedboats. Once the pirates see a ship sailing alone, armed members of their gangs set off in the speedboats to surround it. By threatening the crew with weapons, the pirates get on board and force the captured ship to sail to the coast of Somalia. The pirate leaders then contact the ship's owners and demand a ransom payment for the release of the captured ship and its crew.



French warship, *Nivose*

The pirates have captured many ships in this way. These include ships as big as oil tankers. Some pirate groups have made large amounts of money from the ransom payments. This, experts say, encourages other Somalis to join the pirate gangs.

Other countries have been working together to try to stop the pirate attacks. Warships from the USA, Russia, India, China and the European Union (EU) member countries have been sent to the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Yet they have found it difficult to stop all the pirate attacks. One reason is that the attacks have been happening further and further away from the Somali coast. So the area of sea the warships are trying to cover is very big.

Navy ships from the EU were first sent to the Indian Ocean in

December 2008. Their job, or mission, was given the name Operation Atlanta. At first Operation Atlanta navy ships tried to protect other ships by sailing close by them. The navy ships would also head towards another ship if they heard radio transmissions saying it was being attacked. But the navy ships often arrived too late – after the pirates were already on board. If the navy ships tried to stop them, the pirates would threaten to harm the crew. The navy ships were therefore unable to stop the pirates from sailing the ships they captured back to Somalia.

Recently Operation Atlanta ships have decided to use different tactics. Instead of trying to protect other ships far out to sea, they have been searching for the pirates' mother ships closer to the coast of Somalia.

French officials said one of its navy's ships, the *Nivose*, had captured 35 pirates and destroyed four of their mother ships and six smaller speedboats. An Italian warship and a naval aircraft from Spain had assisted the French navy ship. This is believed to have been Operation Atlanta's biggest success since it first began over 12 months ago. ■

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**Editor:** Amber Thody

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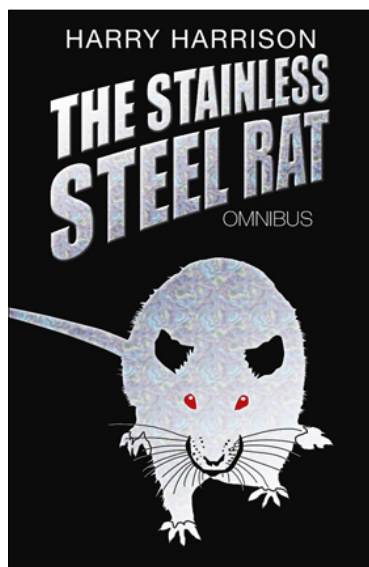
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## B O O K R E V I E W

### HAVE YOU READ ...?



on League planets never uses the death penalty on criminals. Instead, the psychologists can just delete a criminal's personality and install his or her body with a healthier and happier one!

Needless to say the police on League planets get rather bored, because the most action they ever see is directing traffic. That is, unless Jimmy is in town. Jimmy is a very rare kind of criminal.

Criminals usually get caught by the Special Corps, the League's investigative team that deals in interplanetary crime. A normal criminal may last a few weeks committing petty thefts before getting caught – maybe a few months at most if he or she is very clever. But Jimmy has been operating as a career criminal for years and he has always managed not only to out-smart the cops, but usually also to make them look rather...stupid.

I really loved reading this book. The story starts at a hundred miles an hour when a cop walks into Jimmy's office to arrest him for his latest scam. Jimmy has been stealing food from a government warehouse, repackaging the food with his own brand name, and selling it at just under his competition's lowest prices. It was a lucrative scam before the cops finally caught up with him.

But Jimmy is nothing if not prepared. He waits for the robocop to say the word 'charge' before he dramatically drops a three-ton safe on the unsuspecting

Meet James Bolivar di-Griz, aka Jimmy, aka the Stainless Steel Rat. He isn't your typical citizen of The League of Planets.

A typical citizen has had all antisocial tendencies bred out at an early age. This begins before birth, when doctors correct the DNA of genetic patterns known to cause psychotic or antisocial behaviour. The League is exceptionally good at neatly correcting people. The justice system

arresting officer's head. Then he politely apologises to the somewhat crushed (but still speaking) robocop – and then makes good his well-planned escape.

The author puts an amazing amount of complex detail into the planning and forethought of Jimmy's approach to things. I understood very quickly that Jimmy is actually a good guy. He has very high morals and he even has his own laws – laws he is constantly rewriting over time. Unfortunately, the Special Corps has been tracking him for years. Its officers don't want to put him in jail and they don't wish to delete his personality. They want to do much, much worse to the Stainless Steel Rat. They want to make him into a special agent and force him to pay taxes!

A Stainless Steel Rat is exactly what Jimmy considers himself to be. He even wonders himself at how the psychs missed him during all that genetic testing in his early years. It's pretty obvious to me that Jimmy is something of a genius. He can assess situations in the blink of an eye and he can out-think and out-rat even the most hardened killer.

But his first mission is a real test, and an exciting read, as Jimmy faces his greatest opponent. He doesn't even realize that the mastermind he faces has a mind as keen as his own – and lacks any sort of moral code.

Jimmy's adventures don't end with the first book. Read *The Stainless Steel Rat's Revenge* and *The Stainless Steel Rat Saves the World* to see how Jimmy survives and thrives in The League of Planets.

*The Stainless Steel Rat Omnibus* by Harry Harrison. Hachette Australia.

Reviewed by **Chris Tarn**

### WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

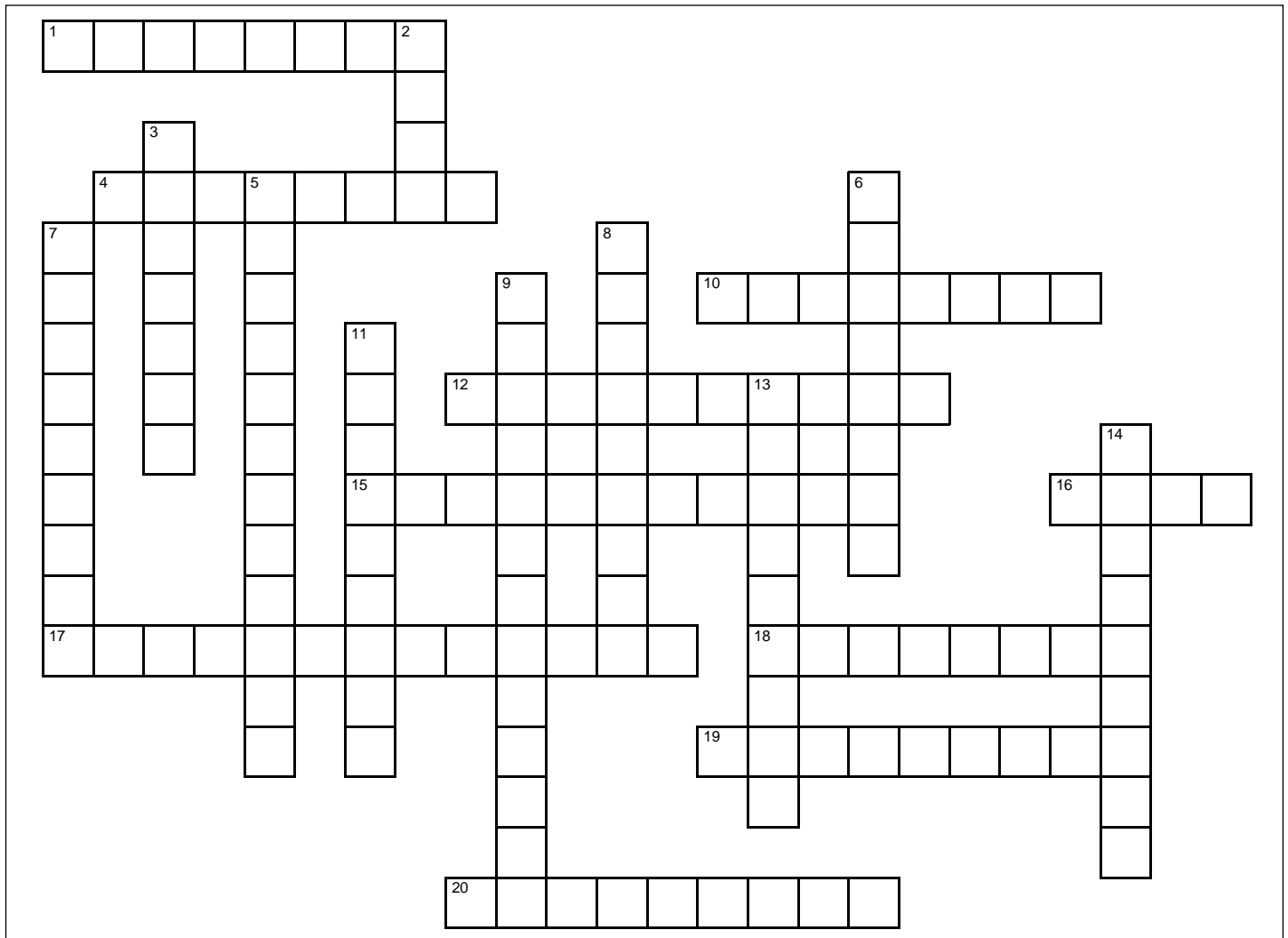
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

# GLOSSARY

## PRIZE COMPETITION

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



### Across

- 1 Noun** The force that makes it difficult for an object to move through a liquid or gas or to slide along the surface of another object
- 4 Adjective** Connected with the sea
- 10 Verb** Travelled alongside a vehicle, ship or plane to make certain it arrived safely
- 12 Noun** Lack of honesty
- 15 Noun** Chemical used to kill insects
- 16 Noun** A group of people appointed to judge a competition
- 17 Adjective** Advanced in development, or complicated
- 18 Noun** One or more reasons for believing that something is, or is not, true
- 19 Adjective** Needing the help of someone or something to continue to exist or operate
- 20 Adjective** Able to withstand something and not be harmed or affected

### Down

- 2 Noun** An accepted or standard way of doing something
- 3 Noun (Plural)** Methods used to gain something or achieve an advantage
- 5 Noun** A red, painful and often swollen area on or in part of the body
- 6 Verb** Encourages the popularity of something
- 7 Noun (Plural)** People who are chosen to represent others and act on their instructions
- 8 Adjective** Producing a lot of money
- 9 Adjective** Able to decay naturally and harmlessly
- 11 Verb** To be in control of or more powerful than others
- 13 Verb** Caused something to start
- 14 Verb** Thought or believed something to be true or likely



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